REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 6, 2003. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, the specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised in order to make a number of clarifying and other editorial amendments. Due to the nature of the revision involved, a substitute specification and abstract has been prepared. No new matter has been added. Also enclosed is a "marked-up" copy of the original specification and abstract to show the changes that have been incorporated into the substitute specification and abstract. The enclosed copy is entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

In view of the presentation of the substitute specification and abstract, it is submitted that the objections to the specification, abstract and title are now obviated.

To further facilitate the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, original claims 1-5 and 9 have been amended and new claims 10-20 have been added. Each of the new claims has been carefully drafted to ensure compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Furthermore, claims 1-5 and 9 have been amended to overcome the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In particular, each of the recited elements has been provided with clear antecedent basis. Accordingly, it submitted that the amended claims are now clearly in compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazuhiro OTSU et al.

By:_

Michael S. Huppert Registration No. 40,268

Attorney for Applicants

MSH/kjf Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 November 6, 2003